

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

June 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Local Workforce Planning Section

Where are the May flowers?

In May, **Wisconsin's** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) fell to 5.1 percent, still slightly higher than last May. The employment by industry estimates (on page 2) show more jobs in May than April in nearly every private sector industry, while signals remain more mixed when comparing last May to this May. Over-the-year losses in construction and manufacturing overshadow over-the-year gains in education & health services and information, professional, business & other services.

In the north central region, **Adams County** stands out for being below typical unemployment rates for 10 of the last 12 months. The construction sector and the retail & wholesale trade sector posted strong job gains on the 1-month measure and the 1-year measure. (See page 2.) Leisure & hospitality added seasonal jobs in May, but has not advanced much from last May.

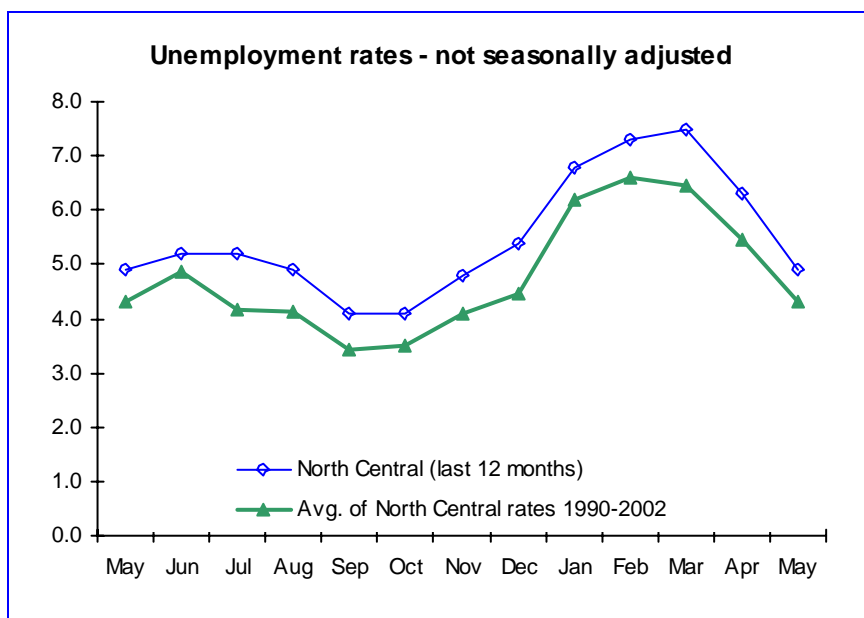
Forest County's unemployment rate remained higher than usual. April-to-May job gains were mainly in construction, leisure & hospitality and retail & wholesale trade. Comparisons of May 2002 to May 2003 reveal little job growth in any private sector industry and losses in construction, manufacturing, leisure & hospitality and information, professional, business & other services.

The unemployment rate in **Lincoln County** was still well above its typical rate for the month, but less so than it had been since November. Leisure & hospitality was the only private sector industry to post significantly more jobs this May than last, so job gains over the last month could reflect seasonal rebound more than real recovery.

Except January, **Marathon County** has seen more unemployment rate volatility than usual this year, but its May rate is very close to its typical May rate. Over the month and over the year, manufacturing job gains stand out, as do job losses in retail trade and financial activities.

Although still half a percentage point higher than usual, **Oneida County's** May unemployment rate was closer to typical May levels than it has been in the last 12 months. April-to-May job growth in construction and retail & wholesale trade appear to be more seasonal than permanent. Comparing last May to this May, the leisure & hospitality sector grew faster and added many more jobs than any other sector, while manufacturing has lost jobs nine of the last twelve months.

The May unemployment rate in **Portage County** fell a bit faster than it usually does while remaining higher than usual. Construction jobs added in May were not enough to reach last May's level. The trade sector has lost jobs 9 of the last 12 months and remains well below 2002 levels. As seen elsewhere, leisure & hospitality lead job growth.



Until January, **Vilas County's** unemployment rate was within half a percent of typical levels; since then it has been 1.5 percent to 2 percent over. April-to-May job gains in construction and retail & wholesale trade look fairly seasonal because the former was barely above its May 2002 level and the latter was below its May 2002 level. Leisure & hospitality continues to add jobs at a good clip while information professional, business & other services still struggles to recover from an unusually big January loss.

Wood County saw its unemployment rate fall more sharply than usual in May, remaining higher than usual, but not as much so as it had been during the winter months. The construction sector added jobs in May, but not enough to bring it up to last May's level. Education & health services did not add as many jobs in May as leisure & hospitality did, but education & health services has grown more since last May than has leisure & hospitality. Manufacturing lost jobs nine of the last twelve months.

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted																
	Wisconsin		Adams		Forest		Langlade		Lincoln							
	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-year change	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-year change	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-year change				
Total jobs, all industries*	2,799,500	32,100	-200	4,300	150	140	3,300	80	-70	3,800	60	100	12,100	200	-60	
Const., min'g & nat. resources	123,600	10,900	-7,500	270	30	40	90	30	-20	150	10	10	450	10	-20	
Manufacturing	516,100	1,300	-10,400	440	-10	30	320	0	-40	500	0	0	3,500	70	-80	
Trade (w holesale & retail)	432,300	6,600	2,700	620	30	80	330	20	10	680	10	20	1,760	40	-50	
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	106,400	1,800	-100	150	0	0	180	10	10	190	0	0	360	10	-50	
Financial activities	156,200	1,500	3,100	90	0	0	100	0	10	180	0	-10	770	0	10	
Education & health services	362,300	-700	6,000	460	0	0	350	-10	0	310	10	50	960	-10	0	
Leisure & hospitality	245,100	12,300	-700	730	80	20	190	30	-50	270	20	40	1,180	60	100	
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	432,700	1,800	8,000	330	0	-80	130	10	-60	320	10	40	990	10	-20	
Government	424,800	-3,400	-1,300	1,260	10	50	1,640	10	70	1,150	0	-40	2,100	0	30	
Civilian Labor Force**	3,077,100	940	65,900	8,900	170	430	4,900	-30	0	10,100	-190	350	14,900	-190	140	
Employed	2,921,200	23,200	59,900	8,500	250	420	4,500	100	-30	9,300	40	230	13,900	160	170	
Unemployed	155,900	-22,300	6,000	360	-80	10	340	-140	30	780	-230	120	940	-350	-30	
Unemployment rate (%)	5.1	-0.7	0.1	4.1	-1.0	0.0	7.0	-2.7	0.6	7.7	-2.1	1.0	6.3	-2.3	-0.3	
	Marathon		Oneida		Portage		Vilas		Wood							
	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-month change	May 2003	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	70,600	900	800	19,000	870	310	33,300	410	400	8,600	770	20	44,500	350	550	
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,900	300	100	1,430	180	70	1,020	100	-70	920	130	20	1,580	150	-40	
Manufacturing	18,400	400	400	1,390	20	-290	5,400	-30	50	400	20	-80	7,700	-20	-390	
Trade (w holesale & retail)	14,300	-100	-100	4,000	150	40	4,400	-70	-470	1,370	100	-70	6,300	20	-120	
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,900	100	0	440	20	-30	1,850	20	-20	100	10	-20	3,400	50	110	
Financial activities	4,300	0	-100	540	10	10	4,000	10	50	310	10	20	1,140	10	40	
Education & health services	6,600	100	0	3,100	0	50	3,100	20	120	720	10	70	11,100	60	670	
Leisure & hospitality	5,100	200	0	3,000	410	590	4,000	200	520	1,960	450	170	2,900	130	260	
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	7,900	-100	200	2,400	70	-100	3,700	50	30	380	20	-280	4,900	-60	180	
Government	8,200	0	300	2,800	10	-50	6,000	120	200	2,500	20	180	5,500	10	-170	
Civilian Labor Force**	77,000	-160	1,510	22,600	550	690	38,800	-10	1,000	12,100	170	600	41,300	-350	1,010	
Employed	74,000	560	1,640	21,500	1,180	700	36,900	280	1,000	11,400	630	370	39,200	140	1,080	
Unemployed	3,100	-710	-140	1,080	-630	-10	1,860	-280	0	700	-460	220	2,100	-480	-70	
Unemployment rate (%)	4.0	-0.9	-0.2	4.8	-3.0	-0.2	4.8	-0.7	-0.1	5.7	-4.0	1.6	5.1	-1.1	-0.3	

*Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary.
Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding.